

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON GREEK-FRENCH RELATIONS

"ELLINIKOS VORRAS" OF DECEMBER 4 CARRIES LAUDATORY EDITORIAL BY CHIEF ED KYROU ENTITLED "GREEK-FRENCH COOPERATION". KYROU CITES DECEMBER 2 VISIT TO ATHENS BY PM CHIRAC AND PLANNED OFFICIAL VISIT IN 1975 BY PRES GISCARD AS EVIDENCE OF "COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS AND GOALS" BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. GREECE, ACCORDING TO KYROU, IS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT CUSTOMER FOR FRENCH MARKET, PARTICULARLY WAR INDUSTRY. IN ADDITION TO "TANKS, TRANSPORT PLANES, GUNS, AND SHIPS" ALREADY PURCHASED FROM FRANCE, GREECE HAS ORDERED MIRAGE AIRCRAFT, MORE TANKS, AND OTHER ARMAMENTS. FRENCH WEAPONS, WHICH "CHEAPER THAN THOSE OF AMERICANS", OFFER ALTERNATIVE IN "PRESENT PERIOD OF CRISIS AND ANTAGONISM WITH TURKEY WHICH SCANDALOUSLY AND OPENLY SUPPORTED BY US". GREECE THEREFORE IN NEED OF "FRIENDLY MARKET" TO SUPPLY ARMS WHICH US "FREELY PROVIDES TO TURKEY AND WHICH LATTER USES TO THREATEN NATO NEIGHBOR". KYROU CONCLUDES THAT FRENCH ALSO ACTIVELY SUPPORTING GREEK BID FOR EARLY ENTRY IN EEC.

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